plant breeders or from providing for the rights of researchers to use protected seed for scientific investigation without authorisation from plant breeders.

A view has emerged in the country that a sui generies system of plant variety protection would be in our own interest to encourage greater investment in research and development of better varieties of seed.

The Government has accordingly started work on the drafting of suitable legislation which would also provide for farmers and researchers' privileges.

Export Trends

693. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the trend of exports during the first eight months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period in the precceding year;

(b) the commodity-wise breakdown, in volume as well as in value, of exports during the last two years; and

(c) the unit value of the principal items of exports for both the years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Exports during the first eight months (April-November) of the current year (1993-94) are estimated at US$ 13840 million (Rs. 43405) crores compared to US$ 11594 million (Rs. 33053 crores) during the corresponding period of the preceding year signifying a growth of 19.37% in US$ terms.

(b) Information called for is voluminous. These are available in Volume I of the Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India (Annual Numbers for 1991-92 & 1992-93). March 1992 Issue, and March 1993 Issue, published by the DGCIS, Calcutta. These Publications are made available to the Lok Sabha Library.

(c) The unit values of principal items of exports for the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given in the statement.

Statement

Unit Values of Principal Export Commodities

(Value in Rupees)

S.No	Commodities	Unit of Qty.	1991-92	1992-93
1.	Jute manufactures including twist and yarn	Ton.	16507.5	16993.0
2.	Tea and Mate	Kg.	56.0	58.1
3.	Coffee and Coffee substitutes	Kg.	33.7	33.0
4.	Iron Ore	Ton.	486.7	498.1
5.	Mica (Incl. Splittings) and Mica waste	Kg.	*102*	8.8
6.	Tobacco manufactured	Kg.	40.7	67.1
7.	Spices	Ton.	27584.4	30566.8
8.	Cotton, Raw	Ton.	190291	28521.4
9.	Marine Products	Ton.	75943.1	82695.3
10.	Sugar and Mollasscs	Ton.	3528.2	7287.3
11.	Oil cake	Ton.	2527.1	4200.5
12.	Shellac	Ton.	45213.7	81959.5
13.	Cashew Kernels	Ton.	128794.0	119485.4
14.	Rice	Ten.	11139.5	16808.0
15.	Wheat	Ton.	2193.4	2778.3
16.	Coal	Ton.	1114.9	1310.8

Effect of GATT Agreement on Indian Gene Banks

694. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how and in what manner the Indian Gene Banks which have been created by ICAR and other Labs in the counrtry are going to be affected by the GATT Agreement;

(b) whether the Indian Genes which are superior and better in comparison to the genes of the other countries are going to be accepted under the GATT Agreement; and

(c) if so, what particular kind of genes, Government propose to press for acceptance by other countries signing the GATT Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Uruguay Round Agreement on TRIPS requires members countries to provide for patenting of all invertions